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E.O. 12065: GDS 10/2/86 (BOWDLER, W.G.)

TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, OAS, CI

SUBJECT: BOWDLER/PASTOR MEETING AT UNGA

REF: SECTO 8046

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN FOLLOW-UP TO EARLIER MUSKIE/PASTOR BILATERAL (RBPTEL) ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER EXAMINED IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR AND HIS ADVISORS THE PROBLEMS OF BOLIVIA, HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA, AND HOW TO ADDRESS THIS LATTER ISSUE IN THE OASGA. PASTOR ARGUED THAT THE GOA'S POLICY TOWARD BOLIVIA IS ONE OF SUPPORT FOR THE CURRENT REGIME BUT NOT WARM EMBRACE AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO URGE PRUDENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE INTERNAL POLICIES ON THE GOB. ON HUMAN

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RIGHTS ABUSES IN ARGENTINA, PASTOR CONCERDED LITTLE AND ASCRIBED GOA DIFFICULTIES IN GENEVA TO THE ACTIVITIES OF MONTONERO EXILES. PASTOR DID NOT AGREE THAT A SEPARATE RESOLUTION DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA IS DESIRABLE OR EVEN APPROPRIATE AT THE FORTHCOMING OASGA. THE GOA CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR A COLLECTIVE, VERY GENERAL, RESOLUTION. END OF SUMMARY.

3. BOWDLER MET WITH PASTOR FOR APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES. OTHERS PRESENT WERE AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL, ENRIQUE ROS, AND ROBERT SERVICE. THE MEETING BEGAN WITH A BRIEF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA. THE ARGENTINES COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION BY ALLOWING HIS MEETING THAT MORNING WITH PASTOR TO GO FOR 45 MINUTES RATHER THAN THE SCHEDULED 30. PASTOR EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMANN TO BUENOS AIRES.

4. BOWDLER SET FORTH IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL USG PROBLEMS WITH THE CURRENT BOLIVIAN REGIME: IT WAS AN ERROR TO INTERRUPT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS; THE PRESENT COURSE COULD LEAD TO A MORE RADICAL SITUATION LATER; THE GARCIA

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MEZA REGIME IS NEITHER POPULAR NOR CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH BOLIVIAN PROBLEMS. WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND DRUGS. IN SUM, WE DO NOT SEE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. PASTOR'S REPLY COMBINED EXPLANATION FOR GOA SUPPORT WITH AT LEAST PARTIAL AGREEMENT RE USG OBJECTIVES. HE BEGAN BY NOTING EX-PRESIDENT BANZER'S CLOSE TIES TO ARGENTINA (HE RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING THERE) AND CLAIMED THAT SILES SUAZO HAD MADE A SERIOUS ERROR BY OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO MONTONERO LEADER FIRMENICH AND

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OTHER EXTREMISTS. THIS, HOWEVER, DID NOT MEAN THE GOA WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH OR SUPPORTED THE COUP. FURTHERMORE, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BANZER SINCE JULY 17, PASTOR CLAIMED THAT VIDELA HAD STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE GOB TO ACT PRUDENTLY TO END DRUG TRAFFICKING AND TO MAKE SERIOUS PLANS FOR RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. PASTOR SAID THAT HE HAS NO PARTICULAR BRIEF FOR GARCIA MEZA BUT THAT THE GOA DOES WANT A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN BOLIVIA. IT WAS NOT COINCIDENTAL THAT CHE GUEVARA WHEN HE TRIED TO LEAD A NEW REVOLUTION IN THE 1960'S CHOSE THAT COUNTRY. AJA ESPIL, NOTING AN EARLIER BOWDLER COMMENT ABOUT THE NEED FOR A POLICY ADDRESSING BOLIVIA'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WONDERED WHAT THE USG REACTION WOULD BE TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM ARGENTINA. PASTOR ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME.

5. BOWDLER THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND URGED PASTOR TO CONSIDER THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS. FOR EXAMPLE IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO END DISAPPEARANCES ENTIRELY? WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PAST, THERE IS NO LONGER EITHER NEED OR JUSTIFICATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TOGETHER WITH THIS PROBLEM BEHIND US. PASTOR ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAD BEEN DISAPPEARANCES IN THE PAST BUT THEN REPEATED HIS THEME

OF THE MORNING MEETING THAT THOSE REPORTED THIS YEAR WERE NOT REALLY DISAPPEARANCES BUT RATHER FRAUDULENT ACCUSATIONS BY THE OPPOSITION. HE SUGGESTED THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE NOT ACTIVISTS BUT MAY BE SYMPATHETIC WITH THE MONTONEROS WERE BEING PAID TO SIMPLY DISAPPEAR FOR A TIME. COMMENTING ON THE UNHRC WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARED PERSONS, PASTOR ALLEGED THAT MONTONERO EXILES MET CONSTANTLY WITH VAN BOVEN AND THAT THE GOA HAS A VERY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION OF THE WHOLE PROCESS. BOWDLER WONDERED WHAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO INFORM

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RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED PERSONS THAT FAMILY MEMBERS WERE IN FACT DEAD. PASTOR DESCRIBED THE PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW AND LAMENTED THAT VERY FEW CASES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER IT BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON FAMILY MEMBERS NOT TO DO SO.

6. BOWDLER ASKED PASTOR WHAT IDEAS HE HAD FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION ON ARGENTINA IN THE OASGA, EXPLAINING THAT THE PROCEDURE HAS BEEN TO HAVE A COUNTRY SPECIFIC RESOLUTION WHEN DEALING WITH A REPORT ON AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY. IN BOWDLER'S VIEW THIS NORMAL PRACTICE SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH ARGENTINA AND THE U.S. TO WORK OUT A SUITABLE FORMULA FOR A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD REMOVE THIS OBSTACLE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. PASTOR CLAIMED THAT HIS SOUNDINGS

INDICATED THAT MANY COUNTRIES FAVORED A GLOBAL RESOLUTION COVERING ARGENTINA AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE HE SAID THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WERE DTSILLUSIONED WITH WHAT THEY VIEW AS DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF A FEW COUNTRIES WHILE MANY OTHERS GO UNTOUCHED. ARGENTINA COULD OF COURSE AGREE TO A SPECIFIC RESOLUTION IF IT WERE ABSOLUTE FAIR PLAY; BUT HOW COULD THIS BE ASSURED WHEN THERE ARE COUNTRIES SUCH AS NICARAGUA INVOLVED. AT THIS POINT ROS INJECTED THE THOUGHT THAT AN OAS RESOLUTION FOCUSING SPECIFICALLY ON ARGENTINA WOULD NOT BE THE END OF THE MATTER BUT SIMPLY THE BEGINNING OF A WIDER PROCESS OF CONDEMNATION IN OTHER FORA.

7. IN CONCLUDING THE MEETING BOWDLER NOTED THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR AJA ESIL TOWARD IMPROVING U.S./ARGENTINE RELATIONS. HE REFERRED TO U.S.-ARGENTINE FRIENDSHIP BUT AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS

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WHICH IMPEDE CLOSE COOPERATION CAN BE RESOLVED.

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